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LETTER DATED 12 APRIL 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We request, on an urgent basis, that the Security Council consider the rapidly deteriorating and eroding implementation of its mandate in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the time of the adoption of Security Council resolution 982 (1995) on 31 March 1995, extending the current mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we were encouraged that there would be a concerted effort to rehabilitate UNPROFOR's mandate to an acceptable level of functionability. Unfortunately though, the course towards further atrophy has been continued, with dangerous consequences for peace efforts and deadly results for our civilians.

In resolution 982 (1995) the Security Council called upon the Secretary-General to respond to our concerns as outlined in our letter to him of 29 March 1995. By the terms of that resolution, the Secretariat still has over six weeks to respond. We remain prepared to cooperate constructively in this longer term evaluation and effort. Unfortunately, the current situation and continuing deterioration necessitate a more urgent response, and there must be an immediate reversal. Otherwise, UNPROFOR's mission in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be fatally injured and subject to early termination. The following three factors especially highlight the dangers:

1. In clear violation of the "safe area"/"exclusion zone" status of Sarajevo, the besieging Serbian forces have employed banned heavy weaponry to shell civilians, as well as to engage in sniping and closure of "lifeline" routes. UNPROFOR's spokeswoman in Sarajevo, Captain Myriam Sochacki, indicated that the shelling was coming from banned mortars and was directed at civilians. To quote: "There are no military objects in that area. It seems they were targeting civilians". These acts have returned Sarajevo to its darkest hours and victimization. It is not overly dramatic to exclaim that Sarajevo is now truly being strangled.

2. The access road from the airport to Sarajevo now has a firmly entrenched Serbian checkpoint, in total contradiction to the Agreement of

5 June 1992 that was the basis for UNPROFOR assuming control of the airport under the terms of resolutions 761 (1992) and 764 (1992). Not having the will to compel the removal of this ultra vires checkpoint, apparently UNPROFOR has decided to acquiesce. This is in direct contradiction to several Security Council resolutions. It is also in clear violation of our mutual agreement to delegate authority for Sarajevo airport to UNPROFOR. It is up to the Security Council to address the contravention of its own resolutions, and we trust that it will. On the other hand, it is our right to respond to these ever more substantive breaches of an agreement on our sovereign territory.

3. Sarajevo is by no means the only or most menaced city in the Republic. Over the last few days, the fate of the "safe area" of Gorazde, also defined as an "exclusion zone", has been highlighted. Civilians have been targeted by shelling, sniping and continued deprivation. Only yesterday there was an extended and intensive period of unabated shelling. Once again, UNPROFOR/NATO did not answer with the necessary response that they had been committed to consistent with Gorazde's presumably elevated internationally protected status.

The Security Council has adopted the view in its resolution 982 (1995) "to urge" the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in several paragraphs, to undertake certain measures or to exhibit restraint. More relevantly and appropriately, we believe that we are most justified in requesting that the Security Council ensure that a mission empowered under its authority, in fact, be true to its mandate and commitments as it applies to our sovereign territory.

May I ask for your kind assistance in distributing the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative